VANTARI NEWSLETTER

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(Free to members of associated groups)

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March '90

News for Atari enthusiasts everywhere

TABLE OF CONTENTS

cover
GCR/STACY & Bob Brodie
page 3
From the editor
News Shorts
page 4
An 8-bit program by Doug Skrecky
An ST Review by Bob Lussier
page 5
More news shorts
page 6
Vancouver Atari Show
page 7
8 Bit Word Processors
page 8
Z*Net 507
page 9
Terminal Graphics
page 10
ST Report

Join Vantari
Its worth it!

Newsletter to change name next month. See 'From the editor on page

GCR/STACY MAKES MAC USERS GASP

****

- by John Nagy

As part of the User Group Coordinator and general Atari man of the world Bob Brodie's Michigan tour last weekend, Bob addressed the MACTECHNICS meeting. The MacIntosh User Group had over 400 visitors packed in at the Ann Arbor, Michigans Crisler Center, at the University of Michigan Campus. They weren't there just to see Bob though, also on the agenda was Timeworks, Adobe and Articulate Systems.

Timeworks showed Publish It (for the Mac of course), and it is quite different from the PUBLISHER ST we are familiar with. Selling for $349.00 there is little to give us hope of an ST version of the upgraded DTP system at least in the near future.

Articulate Systems, from Boston, demoed a $1250.00 voice recognition and response system. The version they showed the MAC group was setup to run with a CAD program, and required a mere 5 meg of RAM to operate.

Adobe, the DTP trend setter, had a new product called PHOTO SHOP selling for $850.00, this is a color compatible draw and paint application that is said to be pretty dazzling.

Bob spoke for about half an hour as did the other guests, showing the Stacy (The four meg ram 40 meg HD version), with Gadgets By Small's Spectre GCR Mac emulator, Bob found the audience to be very receptive.

When Bob got around the mentioning cost for the Atari product line a gasp, a physical reaction from virtually every person, rolled through the meeting hall. After a moment of stunned silence meeting organizer Doug Houseman, who is also a writer for MacUser Magazine took the microphone.

He said, "In case you missed the significance of what this gentlemen just said, let me repeat it. You can get one machine with four meg of RAM, a forty meg hard drive, monitor, laser printer and mouse plus IBM compatibility and MacIntosh compatibility and it will even run ST software, all for less then the cost of a Mac LaserWriter Laser printer ALONE." Again the gasp followed by numbers of questions not the least of which was "Where can we get one of these!?!"

After the presentation part of the meeting Bob was approached by the Adobe people who wanted to try out their Photo Shop software on the Stacy GCR. Bob started to back pedal a bit saying "You know, if your system makes an illegal call to the MAC hardware, it's not there..." Adobe loaded their application...and it ran.

Continued on page 4

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The Vantari Newsletter

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MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues are $20.00 for individual members, $25.00 for Family memberships and $15.00 for a newsletter only subscription by mail each month. Memberships are renewable in the same month that you joined.

VANTARI MEETINGS

Vantari meets on the second wednesday of each month at the Hastings Community Centre, 3096 E. Hastings St. from 7:00pm until 10:00pm. Visitors are welcome to attend a meeting to decide on membership. Come in and meet us!

ADVERTISING RATES AND POLICIES

Advertising must conform to our family publication standards. Ads must be camera-ready copy sized according to advertising rates listed. Non-conforming sizes must pay rate of next larger size. Mail your ads to the editor with a cheque to cover the listed rates, your ad will appear in the next issue. Discounts are available for continual running ads, phone editor for details. Deadlines for ads are the fifteenth day of each month.

*ADVERTISING RATES:

FULL PAGE	$25.00	HALF PAGE	$15.00
TWO FULL COLUMNS	$20.00	ONE FULL COLUMN	$10.00
ONE HALF OF TWO COL.	$12.00	ONE HALF OF ONE COL.	$ 6.00
BUSINESS CARD	$4.00		

* Subject to change without notice

Members receive free classified ads for computer related items in the following catagories: Swap, Wanted, or For Sale (as space permits.) Claims made within ads are the sole responsibility of the advertiser.

From the Editor

First of all,
Thank you Douglas Skrecky for taking up the call I put out last month for 8-bit articles. His article is the only 8-bit piece in this month's newsletter. Remember what I said last month " The 8-bit users must band together in order to keep support going for their computers". Well at the last executive meeting we had a discussion and decided to revamp the 8-bit library. Our old library of about 200 disks had been set aside in favour of the newer library that only had about 35 disks of only the best public domain software that was available for the 8-bit machines. We have decided to bring back all those 200 disks full of demo's, utilities, graphics, games, applications, etc. for sale to our members. Bruce Peltzer expressed a wish to have a good autorun menu selection program on each disk and this may take a little time to implement. We have two or three in the library but are not sure how they run, so if you have one that is public domain and you think it is the greatest thing since sliced bread then by all means contact Bruce and give him a copy.

And now the news...

This newsletter is the last issue of the Vantari Newsletter. Next month will be the first issue of our Newsletter to be renamed the "Pacific Atari News". No jokes now, we will not be just 'a flash in the PAN'. The reason for the change is that it will no longer be just a Vantari user group publication. We have made an agreement with ASTUTE which is an ST only user group to publish a joint newsletter which will contain two pages of input from their group and the remaining eight from Vantari. The Vantari section will continue to have at least one page devoted to the 8-bit machines for as long as their are 8-bit members who care enough to join Vantari in keeping that support alive. In the future we hope to include more advertising which will enable us to increase the number of pages printed while keeping the membership fees at their present low level. Take note that Apple and IBM groups are paying fees of $30. - $35. and even Atari groups in other places are $24. - $30. and some of those do not include the subscription to the newsletter.

Take note of the ad for Vancouvers first ATARI SHOW AND SWAP MEET. The table prices noted are only until April 1st and after that they will increase, so if you want one act quickly. The space for tables is limited at this facility and the exact count will not be known until next week when someone will measure the place and do a table layout diagram. Each registered user group will have two tables for selling memberships and their public domain software.

From the local stores... A&B SOUND have the SX212 Modem for the blowout price of $49.99. WIZARD COMPUTERS have purchased loads of old 8-bit software from Atari Canada and are selling titles for reasonable (almost cheap) prices.

From last month... My apologies for page 10. The gremlins got involved with the font sizing and well, you saw the results. That's it for another month folks, remember to keep those cards and letters coming it's the only way I know your alive and well and using your computer.

Don Hatch

CPU NEWSWIRE CONFIDENTIAL

SAYIN IT LIKE IT IS....

- Rockville, MD.

*** GENIE OPENING NEW EUROPEAN NODES*

Our info has it that Genie will, "at about the same time as the Hannover Computer Fair, announce that West Germany is being broughtonboard the extensive Genie Network." Additionally, Genie will methodically involve most of Western Europe in the coming year. GEnie will be conducting an online conference in the Atari ST RT this March originating from Australia (March 07). The guest will be ISD's Nathan P.

- San Francisco, CA.

*** ANTIC LATEST TO GET HURT?*

Well, Antic is down to Technical 'Support' Monday AND Friday ONLY,8:00am - 5pm PST. With Atari and their lack of activity, (Sales-Advertising etc), in the US COMPUTER market now going on for what seems like forever, another landmark company and folks becomes their latest victim. All those who have purchased from "The Catalog" now must put up with the busy signal blues. The list is long and hard feelings run deep, when is Atari gonna wake up?

- Toronto, Canada**

*** MEGAFILE 44 ON SALE IN CANADA*

Atari has the megafile and other "NOT FOR SALE IN THE US" products readily available in Canada and other parts of the world. Why the continued three fingered sign aimed at the US market... What gives? The time is really at hand for some solid answers.

- Philadelphia, PA.

*** ATARI PLAYING A SHELL GAME?*

Many times mention has been made of the ill-fated Stacy, like where is it and when can it be bought? The new question is why is it possible to buy this thing from J&R in person but when one calls on the phone the typical answer is; "what unit? Do you have a model number?" Two rather substantial dealers who carry Atari computer products in quantity have informed us that they are seriously considering telling Atari and its staff of comedians they call marketing a very clear message. "No Stacy for us, then let your music dealers sell it all for you!" 1990 may just be the year for Atari, ... the year for Atari's RUDE AWAKENING! Atari had better learn and learn fast that their loyal dealers are not going to sit still for this latest fiasco. They, simply put, are not interested in the class A and B baloney, they WANT the product to offer for sale.. period! When they are told it goes in music stores only it is like lighting the fuse... Hey ... SUNNYVALE!! WAKE UP!!!

from CPU NewsWire Online Magazine No.4.08

MOVED ?
send in your new address
To the editor
on page 2

continued from cover

it ran. Properly. Bob breathed easier and the audience breathed harder even more enthused at what Atari was doing for (or, PERHAPS to the MacIntosh community).

Proof of the success of the Mac meeting was available the next day when Bob spoke to the largest Detroit area user group, MACE. Attending were about 150 Atari users ... and a group of MACTECHNICS members who wanted to see and here more, and get some hands on time on the Atari equipment.

Also attending the MACE meeting were group of Canadian users, they indicated some dissatisfaction with the support being given them by Atari Canada and asked Bob what Atari USA could do to help them. The answer is likely to be nothing, the curious thing is that all prior experience with Atari Canada has seem to indicate that their presence in the market and support of users has, if anything, been more satisfying than the Atari USA response.

Users from several Michigan Atari user groups were in attendance at the MACE meeting, they included MAGIC and GAG. MACE had a good return on the event booking many new members and selling lots of disks from the library. One estimate showed that MACE profited approx $600 at the single meeting, making Bob Brodie and even more desirable commodity on the meeting circuit.

from Z*Net Online, Atari Online Magazine Issue #508

Join a user group.

Groups like ours evolved out of the neccessity of individuals to learn more about computers. Together as a group we can learn from each other. Drop in and learn more about your computer from friendly, helpful people who are more than willing help. Just ask nicely and we will find someone to help you.

THE THINKING MAN'S VIDEO GAME

8-bit public domain software

By Douglas Skrecky

Once upon a time a computer magazine published a basic program called Red Squares, which bore a slight resemblance to a program marketed by another company. After finding out how unhappy this company was said magazine lost all interest in publishing my little creation, which bears a much closer resemblance to a certain program than Red Square ever did.

The present author does not relish the prospect of a visit by gentlemen with pointy black shoes and hatchet smiles arriving with a company of Schwarzenegger clones. In order to avoid being dragged off to an institution populated by mildly deranged homicidal maniacs who eat computer nerds for breakfast this author is taking pains to declare that his creation THINK.ACT is public domain. He neither assumes any responsibility nor will accept compensation for this program. It's a freebie folks. Enjoy!

Now to switch to a more pleasant topic. Action! hackers may wish to alter this program as they see fit. Music buffs may want to improve the sound effects. Those with a knowledge of display list interrupts may wish to combine the score screen with the game itself. The game could also be improved by either displaying the next shape that will start falling or by including a 2 player option.

Here's a little story to help your family play the game well. Multicolored snowflakes are falling onto the ground. They will evaporate only when they are packed so tightly together that they form a continuous layer. Whenever this happens that layer will vanish and the snowdrift will subside somewhat. As a sorcerer's apprentice you are bound to do your master's bidding and old greybeard says to keep the ground clear.

You can only do this by focusing your telekinitic ESP powers to nudge the snowflakes as they fall, so that they form continuous layers and evaporate. As an aid to your mental concentration you are provided with a joystick to help focus your ESP powers. Moving the joystick left or right will nudge the snowflake sideways while pressing the trigger will rotate it. Pulling the joystick down will help pull the snowflake to the ground so you can begin concentrating on the next one.

At first the going is easy. However the sorcerer will note this and soon the snowflakes will begin to fall faster, thus requiring both more rapid thinking and faster reflexes. If a gap in a line is covered by a snowflake it can only be uncovered by evaporating the line above. With many cleverly placed gaps the snowdrift will begin to mount....

There are over 3000 skill levels ranging from slow motion at level 0 to impossibly fast at level 3000. (Try level 3000 for fun to see how fast!) Each time a line of snow is filled the skill level will be incremented by from 0 to 100 points. If this increment is set to 0 the skill level will not change. The score is dependant on both the number of lines filled as well as the skill level. Have fun, don't break your joystick!

AN ST REVIEW

by R. Lussier

CORDLESS MOUSE

I finally received my Cordless Mouse and installed it. The unit uses two Triple AAA batteries which you must supply and install. The unit is very sleek and comfortable to use and is very responsive when you move it around. It has an ON switch on the left of the hand unit and will turn itself off in 10 minutes of non-use. The unit comes with a piece of double sided tape to attach the receiver unit (the Infra-Red unit) to any convenient spot including the bottom of a low shelf. In actual use I found the right and left mouse buttons are not to responsive and I had to keep clicking till it worked (this may be a fault in my unit, to be fair). All in all not a bad unit and it is sure nice not having a cord to get tangled.

NEEDLEWORK-ST

I have just received my copy of this program which is a commercial quality design program for creating very intricate needlecraft patterns. The process of this program uses symbols to represent the thread colors. The symbols are put on a grid by simple point and click of the mouse.

This program will create professional quality charts for Needlepoint, Bargello, Cross-Stitch, Latch Hook and other related needlecrafts. The program works with both Color and Monochrome monitors, and either 9-pin or 24-pin Epson compatible printers and any ST computer. The manual is 5 1/2 X 8 1/2 and contains 40 pages. The manual is very well put together and explains how to use the program very well.This is a very unique and interesting program for any users interested in Needlework and well worth the money, good value. If interested then contact: E. Arthur Brown, 3404 Pawnee Drive, Alexandria, MN, 56308. The price is U.S. $29.95 + $8.50 postage and shipping. Ask for their new catalogue for ST products. It is very interesting reading.

GREAT CHEFS

This is a huge program which comes in three boxes each with three disks and has in the vicinity of 300 recipes (100 per volume) plus many cooking tips and wine suggestions. One of the disks is CBOOK which is a sophisticated, easy to use meal planning and printing software. The CBOOK also gives you freedom to select dishes suited to your tastes and cooking skills. You get On-Screen prompts to guide you step-by-step to pick recipes or matching wines, re-scale recipes to any size and print your selections for future use.

A few other programs that work in conjunction with Great Chefs are, Micro Kitchen Companion and Take Control Of Cholesterol. These programs will add different features for advanced menu planning, health and fitness diets. If interested in this type of programs then contact: America's Lifestyle Software, 45 Cordova Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Don't forget to support your dealers and User Groups. Enjoy ....

Z*NET NEWSWIRE

NEOCEPT UPDATE:

WordUp Version 3.0 is just about 2 weeks from beta testing. WordUp is a graphics word processor that integrates pictures and text as it always has but the new version will include a regular printer font output. It will support the big screen monitors such as the Moniterm, a contextual spell checker and a smart spell checker. A thesaurus that will let you select near and true antonyms as well as synonyms.

HEWLETT PACKARD UPDATE:

Hewlett-Packard has recently made several announcements: The first is that they have now extended the warranty on all Deskjet and Deskjet Plus printers from the old period of 1 year to 3. This covers all Deskjet/Plus printers purchased on or after Feb 1st, 1990. Officials at HP stated that the reason they are able to offer this extended warranty is due to the fact that over time the Deskjet series of printers have proven to be an extremely durable product, coupled with the fact that the print head is actually replaced each time the owner replaces the ink cartridge. Effective February 1st 1990 thru June 30th 1990 HP is offering a $150 rebate on all Deskjet Plus purchases, and a $75 rebate on all Deskjet purchases made within this same time frame.

from Z*Net Online, Atari Online

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ISD ADDS POSTSCRIPT

Nathan Potechin of Canada's ISD announced this week that they have completed an output conversion module for CALAMUS OUTLINE ART that will convert the remarkable graphics program's output to either PostScript or Encapsulated PostScript format. This will allow many non-Calamus platforms to use art and logos developed under the unique Outline system. At this time, it appears that the converter will be sold at some additional cost rather than included with OUTLINE ART, itself not quite ready for distribution. Plans for the future include a similar converter for CDK files, the actual full page output of the CALAMUS desktop publisher program.

NEW ATARI HELP BOOK:

Ralph Turner gave us the little blue jewel "ATARI ST BOOK" in 1988. It covered the HOW TO for even the rawest of new ST users, who come to the machine not knowing a double-click from a desk accessory. Now, Ralph has released a new book, "Intermediate and Advanced ATARI ST SUBJECTS". This one takes up where the first left off, and discusses in understandable language many higher level subjects. Binary code, ASCII/ HEX/DECIMAL, file editing, control codes, file recovery, hard disks and assembly of your own, IBM emulation, and more topics each are treated in the new 150 page manual. We'll have a full review soon, but it looks like a good read for the up-and-coming "power user". At bookstores and Atari dealers, or direct for $16.95 plus shipping from INDEX LEGALIS, PO. Box 1822, Fairfield, IA 52556, phone 515-472-2293.

ATARI 8 BIT WORD PROCESSORS

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by Elliott John Coerper

Osan AFB, Korea

Miami Valley Atari Computer Enthusiasts (MVACE)

There could have been several different reasons why you purchased your Atari 8 bit computer. Maybe because it has hundreds, no, literally thousands of inexpensive games available. Maybe it was the abundance of educational programs that persuaded you. Or possibly it was the numerous music programs that enticed you. As for me, I wanted an inexpensive word processing system. During the years I have managed to acquired about 20 different word processing programs. Some are incredible and worth twice what I paid, but then, some are..... You would think with 20 different programs to chose from it would be fairly easy to select which programs to evaluate, right? Wrong, there are three programs I wish I had to evaluate (Turbo Word 80, Atari Writer 80 and Richmans Word Processing System). Anyway, after careful consideration (and help from my son) I narrowed it down to five programs, so put on your reading shoes and lets go..... PAPERCLIP Paper Clip is by far the most powerful writing tool available for the Atari 8 Bit computer. Almost everything was thought of when they designed this full-featured program. Because of this, I call PaperClip the "Yes" word processor. Yes to a print driver utility. Yes to a spell-checker (loaded into a ram disk with the XE). Yes to extra XE file sizes. Yes to mail merge. Yes to double column printing. Yes to header and footers, (up to three lines). Yes to proportional spacing. Yes to horizontal scrolling. Yes to having more then one window, (2 windows per screen is allowable). Yes to an undo function and yes to batch printing. However, Paper Clip does have one no, it is not menu driven. Therefore, Paper Clip is very, VERY, hard to learn. Even with a it's extensive help file (actually using the help key) and a cheat sheet, I had problems. But once you master Paper Clip, you have all the power and versatility that anyone could ever ask for. There is one significant "annoyance" with Paper Clip that needs to be mentioned. Paper Clip uses a dongle to protect its software ›from pirates. (A dongle is a small devise you plug into your joystick port.) In other words, if you don't have a dongle, or you lose yours (like me), you have a worthless program. Hey, I'm all for protection, but have your kids ever gotten into your stuff? Luckily, the program "Chipmunk" eliminates the dongle.

ATARIWRITER PLUS Atari Writer Plus is one of the best word processors available. It is menu driven and very easy to learn. With it's easy to follow documentation and the Quick Reference Guide, even the hardest of commands are learned in a snap. For me, it has been my "Work Horse" over the years with over 1,000 hours of processing time. Although Atari Writer Plus doesn't have as many features as PaperClip, it is still packed full. You still have needed commands like double column printing, horizontal scrolling, mail merge and header and footers, to name a few. And on XE or XE compatibles, your file size is a whopping 46.5k! Unfortunately, if you don't have an XE, you are limited to only about 12k. The only problem I have with Atari Writer

Plus is it's saved files. Atari Writer Plus saves each document with a sting of garbage in the beginning of each file. Thus, when I convert the file to MS-DOS I'm stuck doing a bunch of editing. All things considered, AtariWriter Plus is my favorite word processor. FIRST XLENT WORD PROCESSOR There are definitely many advantages to owning First XLent (around $12.00). One of them being, its very affordable price. Another is it's amazing speed. By using the joystick you literately fly though your document. You also have an almost instantaneous search and replace feature. First XLent is unprotected and uses a standard DOS (Atari 2.5). However if you want you can replace this with your favorite DOS. It has one of the best 80 column print preview screens available. By using a software generated 80 column text screen it produces a (some what) readable example of your text as it will appear when printed. I could go on and talk about more of it's features like it's ability to import graphics or that it is icon based, however I'll save that for a full featured article. Overall First XLent is a fantastic product. Although it doesn't have a spelling checker, it does give one of the cleanest outputs that I have seen. This product is well worth the money. HOME WORD Truthfully, I wasn't going to evaluate Home Word, however if I didn't, my 12 year old son would have been impossible to live with. For him, hands down, there is no better word processing system. As for me, I believe, at best, Home Word is a good "kids" word processor. It starts out with graphic pictures at the bottom of the screen. You decide if you want a file cabinet or printer. This is the primary reason my son and his friends like this program. No matter where you are in this program, you have some kind of line drawing graphic at the bottom. Once you are into the document you have two thirds of the screen to see what you are typing. The lower third is then divided into thirds. The first two thirds shows you the status of memory available on both the document and the disk. It also tells you what page you are on. The last one third gives you a neat page preview showing what your document will look like when printed out. However, there are several crucial design defects that make this program nearly worthless. The most significant is the use of a nonstandard DOS. I haven't found a spelling checker yet that can read it. Thus, I feel this program is only good for short letters or a note. Had it not been for my son's love of this program, I would have formatted the disk a long time ago. HOMEPAC'S HOMETEXT HomePak by Batteries Included is a bundled software package that consists of three programs, HomeFind, HomeTerm and HomeText. Like all bundled software I have come across, HomePak gives you only the basics of each program and not enough of each to make it worth the money. If you want a good word processor, look for a word processor and not an all in one program. If I like to think of Paper Clip as the "Yes" word processor, then HomePak is the "No". No Spelling checker with it. No extended printer codes. No double column printing. No proportional spacing. No horizontal scrolling. No undo function. No patch printing (but then again, only Paper Clip allows this). No auto back up (again only Paper Clip) and no extra XE file size. And speaking of file sizes, the maximum file size for HomeText is only 6,620. That is only about 1,000 to 1,500 words! How can you use this program for any serious application? I have hear, but have not seen a Public Domain program that allows you to work around this handicap. Overall, if you are considering this program because of the three programs in one, save yourself the aggravation and purchase another system. Ok, there you have it, a quick look at five different word processing programs. If you are not already using one, give it a try. I have done more work on my Atari at home then I have ever done on my Zenith MS-DOS compatible at work. And looking at the completed product, you cannot tell which one was done on which. Well, until next time, have a wonderful time using your Atari. And don't forget, "Talk up Atari Computers"!

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FEBRUARY 16, 1990

68030 ST ADAPTER LOOKING GOOD FOR APRIL SHOWING:

Dave Small says that the 68030 upgrade project that he and Jim Allen (of FAST TECHNOLOGY) have been working on for the last few months may be ready for an operational display at the April Atari show in Anaheim. Still too far off to say much about commercial availability or price, but Dave says that 16 MHZ operation is assured, and he hopes that he will have 32 MHZ workable enough to show soon too. These upgrades will make an ST really fly, perhaps performing at speeds even above those projected for the 16 MHZ "TT" from Atari. DCDESKTOP A GO FOR MARCH: Double Click Software says development is on schedule for release of its modular desktop enhancement system. Planned for March 14, the DC DESKTOP will

incorporate variations of many of the time-saving features already offered by existing systems, plus a number of innovative additions. Friction arose recently between DC and GRIBNIF, makers of desktop alternative NEODESK. A very preliminary story on DC DESKTOP that appeared in ST-INFORMER's January issue showed a sample screen... that unwisely included icons that were identical to those of NEODESK. DC is designing their own icons, and may have been using NEODESK icons to help lay out their plans, but Gribnif was not amused to have their efforts appear even briefly as "part of" a competing project in development.

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TERMINAL GRAPHICS

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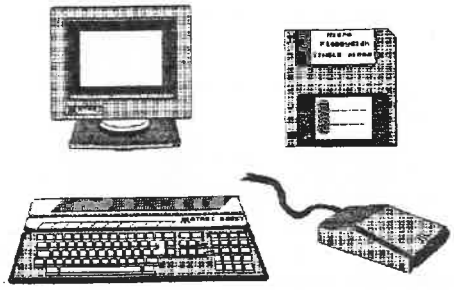
(Editors Note: Having read this on our BBS, I thought it might be of interest here. The original question asked what difference is between Vidtex, VT-52 and VT-100.) From the Z*Net Online BBS (201) 968-8148 Message : 633 [Open] 2-11-90 5:45am From : Richard Levy To : Mike Mezaros Subject : #612 Terminals Sig(s) : 3 (Technical/ Help/Data)

VT 52 was developed in the early 70's as a way for dumb terminals to talk to mainframe computers. The communications protocol (VT52) was a rather straight forward ansi translation (having none of the color features that we have added). But you had a number of other graphic features such as double or double high characters. There are alot of other features too, but at this early hour these are just a few of the ones that I can remember. VT100 was developed (by DEC incidentally, that's Digital Equipment Corporation) a couple years later. Again it's purpose was as a dumb terminal to communicate with mainframe computers, but VT100 terminals had some added features over the VT52 terminals. 132 character wide lines, and some added graphic features. The VT100 also had the ability to do graphics on the screen (bitmapped, much like your ST), only they were alittle slow, but for that time they were rather FAST! The graphics on the screen were an add on feature, but if you ran a research facility in the mid 70's to early 80's and had a DEC mainframe or mini system, these terminals gave you the ability to have a workstation hooked up to it at the price of a dumb terminal. DEC went on to make further advances of the terminal, I think now they are up to VT300, I don't know too much about this one, I know more about the older ones (VT100-VT241) the last one (VT241) was the first truly color dumb terminal that DEC produced, that was somewhere around 1984 area. I think the resolution was 640 X 200 with 16 colors.

If you want to know all the commands for these terminals and all the subtle differences, I used to have them written down on paper somewhere. I don't think that most Atarians would be very interested in it, other then nostalgic sack, for the VT52 that we use to communicate is a high bred of all these terminals, and we owe it all to DEC, not big blue, but the little guy DEC. This response probably had very little to do with the question that you had asked, and I apologize for it's length, but every so often I get the urge to babble on like this.



CPU REPORT

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Issue # 51

Press Release

The Second CANDIAN ATARI USERS' CONVENTION

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The largest gathering ever of Atari computer users in Canada is expected at the upcoming Second Canadian Atari Users' Convention to be held at the Airport Hilton Hotel On April 1, 1990 from 10am to 6pm.

Sponsored by the Toronto Atari Federation, one of the largest computer user groups in North America, the Convention will offer the public a once-a-year opportunity to see what is new and exciting in the world of Atari. There will be exhibits, seminars and demonstrations by a wide variety of retailers, guest speakers, user groups from Canada and the U.S., software developers and hardware manufacturers. "

Show Special" prices offered by retailers, Public Domain software from user groups and reduced room rates at the Airport Hilton ensure bargains for everyone.

A special feature will be a major exhibition by Atari Canada, where a full range of their product line, from 8-bit computers and game machines, through 1040ST's, Mega 2's, Mega 4's and PC clones will be on display.

One of the biggest draws is sure to be the recently released and widely praised Atari Portfolio, an MS-DOS compatible computer which fits in the inner pocket of a business suit and the latest new Atari STE and

STacy. Other highlights include new products, several from Europe, which enable the ST line to emulate IBM and Macintosh machines quickly and more easily than ever before. The Second Canadian Atari Users Convention is being held at the Airport Hilton Hotel, located on Toronto Airport Stip, 5875 Airport Rd., Mississauga, Ontario.

For more information contact our Public Info-Line at (416) 425-5357, or the TAF On-Line BBS at (416) 235-0318

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No.4.04

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- Sunnyvale, CA.

AUSTERITY AT ITS BEST?

Seems Atari has decided to force its users to fund AT&T unjustly. Oh well. Perhaps after throwing away $100,000,000 to $300,000,000 on a dead electronics chain, (Federated, you don't have $750 for five 2400 baud modems. Don't tell me, are the "cheaps" creeping back into the hallowed halls of Sunnyvale?

- Sunnyvale, CA.

NEW MONITORS FROM ATARI

They are alledged to be made by Sony and the picture quality is 1st rate. (Now throw in a trinitron tuner!) The really great part is the absolutely fantastic sound quality! The way my dealer explained it, there are now 2 speakers. One on either side of the monitor. Now the ST sound chip supports 3 voices and with this new monitor, 2 voices come out one speaker and one comes out the other. The effect is spectacular!

- Sunnyvale, CA.

MONOCHROME MONITORS SCARCE!

Hmmmmm, history repeats itself... remember when the color monitors seemed to phhhhft into the woodwork? Well, thats what has happened to the mono monitors this year!! WHY?? Can't our favorite fearless leaders get their act together? Or is is a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing and both thought the other took care of it??

CPU REPORT

Issue # 51

ATTENTION ATARI USER GROUPS:

The Toronto Atari Federation, sponsor of the upcoming SECOND CANADIAN ATARI USERS' CONVENTION, is a non-profit users' group whose sole aim is to serve the Atari community in Canada. As a user group, we understand fully how attendance at computer shows can amount to a major item in the yearly budget. However, we feel strongly that user groups are key players in the world of Atari. Therefore, we are offering a special, reduced rental rate for booths to all Atari user groups.

As an Atari user group, your fee will be 57% off the regular Exhibitor's Rate. That is, you pay only $125.00 Canadian.

The SECOND CANADIAN ATARI USERS' CONVENTION will certainly be the major Atari event of the year. he previous Convention was a runaway success, and we are determined to outdo ourselves in 1990.

We hope that you will want to share in t he excitement with us. This special offer for usergroups is subject to the availability of booths. Only one booth per user group at this special price.

To ensure that your user group does not miss out, please respond as soon as possible.

For more information, please do not hesitate to call me at:

(416) 477-2085 or,

Mike Searl (TAF President) at

(416) 245-5543.